

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131489

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, RO

SUBJECT: RAUTA CASE - RADIO REPORT

1. PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE JUNE 3 CARRIED A 20-MIN-UTE RADIO REPORT ON RAUTA CASE ON NATION-WIDE NETWORK. REPORT WAS CRITICAL OF U.S. GOVERNMENT ROLE. IT CLAIMED THAT FSO JAY KATZEN, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF STATE DEPARTMENT, HAD PROMISED RAUTA THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD ASK CEAUSESCU FOR HIS FAMILY'S RELEASE, WHICH WAS NOT DONE, AND THAT KATZEN HAD FAILED TO KEEP APPOINTMENT WITH RAUTA AT INS OFFICE AFTER DIPLOMATIC BAG WAS "TAKEN" FROM RAUTA. REPORT PORTRAYS RAUTA AS A "PAWN" IN US DIPLO-MATIC EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA. IMPLIED BLAME IS TRANSFERRED TO CURRENT ADMINISTRATION BY COMMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS JUST RECOMMENDED MFN EXTENSION-A "TRADE ADVANTAGE" FOR ROMANIA-ALTHOUGH SEGMENT IN WHICH DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TRATTNER DESCRIBES EMIGRATION INCREASE SINCE MFN IS ALSO INCLUDED. STORY ENDS WITH TAPE RECORDING OF RAUTA'S ATTEMPTS TO TELEPHONE WIFE AND
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MOTHER IN ROMANIA. CONNECTION IS ALWAYS BROKEN AT RO-MANIAN END MOMENTS AFTER IT IS MADE. RAUTA ALSO DESCRIBES THREATS AND HARRASSMENT OF WIFE.

2. IN MEDIA TERMS, RAUTA STORY IS EFFECTIVE EDITORIAL REPORTAGE AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO GENERATE INCREASED PUBLICITY AND PERHAPS CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN RAUTA

CASE.

3. WHEN SUBJECT ARISES WITH ROMANIAN EMBASSY HERE, WE WILL BE TAKING FOLLOWING "PROBLEM SOLVING" APPROACH:
--PUBLICITY GIVEN TO RAUTA CASE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISING; AFTER ALL, FAMILY HAS BEEN SEPARATED FOR FOUR YEARS, AND IT IS DIFFICULT FOR AMERICAN PRESS AND PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND WHY HIS FAMILY SHOULD BE MADE TO SUFFER.
--FURTHER PUBLICITY IS QUITE POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF MFN RENEWAL PROCESS.
--WHILE STATE DEPARTMENT ALSO STRONGLY DESIRES RESOLUTION OF CASE, WE HAVE TRIED TO AVOID CONNECTION WITH MFN. UNDOUBTEDLY, HOWEVER, INCREASED PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE CASE WILL MAKE THIS DIFFICULT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF PASSAGE OF YET ANOTHER YEAR IN WHICH FAMILY'S SITUATION, RATHER THAN IMPROVING, HAS WORSENER.
--WE FULLY UNDERSTAND DIFFICULTY OF THE CASE FOR GOR AND ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO DETERMINE JUST HOW IT MIGHT BE RESOLVED. A SOLUTION, HOWEVER, SEEMS DESIRABLE AND NECESSARY.
--POSSIBILITIES THAT OCCUR TO US ARE APPLICATION OF AMNESTY TO RAUTA AND FAMILY'S DEPARTURE FROM ROMANIA, PERHAPS TO A COUNTRY OTHER THAN U.S. VANCE

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